

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1309

By Turner B

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Holland Kemp Rainey
for her service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Holland Kemp Rainey of Signal Mountain, who has survived multiple family tragedies to become a state and national leader in suicide prevention; and

WHEREAS, after years of his battling a devastating mental illness, Holland Rainey lost her son, Nicholas, at 16 to suicide in 2002 and in May of 2003, her ex-husband also took his own life; and

WHEREAS, compelled by these tragedies, she has turned her experiences into a tireless campaign to warn and prevent others from losing someone they love to suicide; she and her daughter, Corinne, have joined together to form Suicide NETS (Nick's East Tennessee Survivors), a chapter of Yellow Ribbon International Suicide Prevention Program; and

WHEREAS, educated in suicide activism by Dar and Dale Emme, founders of Yellow Ribbon International, Mrs. Rainey attended Suicide Prevention Action Network's "Allies in Action" training and conference in Washington, D.C. in July of 2003 and began speaking publicly about suicide prevention to community groups in Chattanooga in October of 2003; and

WHEREAS, Governor Phil Bredesen appointed Holland Kemp Rainey to the Advisory Council of the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network; she has traveled with the statewide delegation to attend suicide prevention conferences such as "Taking Action: Implementing the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention"; and

WHEREAS, Holland Kemp Rainey has completed additional training for Suicide Support Group Facilitators and earned certification in A.S.I.S.T., the training model formally recognized by the State of Tennessee for suicide prevention; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated individual, Mrs. Rainey has attended over 50 events, either delivering or receiving training on suicide prevention, since the summer of 2003, is publishing a monthly e-mail newsletter containing extensive information on suicide prevention, and, in January of 2004, established a website, www.suicidenets.org, to provide community mental health links and policy information to survivors, attempters, and all others who serve and care for them; and

WHEREAS, Holland Kemp Rainey believes that if even one life is saved, it is well worth the effort to provide "Life from the Loss of Nicholas Kemp, with Love"; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud this outstanding individual for her dedication to both her community and to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Holland Kemp Rainey for her meritorious service to the citizens of the State of Tennessee and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.